EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Adopted and Filed

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5) and 2011 Iowa Code Supplement sections 260H.8 and 260I.11, the State Board of Education hereby adopts new Chapter 25, "Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program; Gap Tuition Assistance Program," Iowa Administrative Code.

This chapter provides for the implementation of the Pathways for Academic Career and Employment Program. This is a program for the development of projects that will lead to gainful, quality, in-state employment for members of target populations by providing them with both effective academic and employment training to secure such employment and customized support services to maintain such employment. This chapter also provides for the implementation of a need-based tuition assistance program to enable applicants to complete continuing education certificate training programs for in-demand occupations.

An agencywide waiver provision is provided in 281—Chapter 4.

Notice of Intended Action was published in the February 22, 2012, Iowa Administrative Bulletin as **ARC 0020C**. Public comments were allowed until 4:30 p.m. on March 13, 2012. On that date, a public hearing was held and no persons attended. No written or oral comments were received. These rules are identical to those published under Notice.

There will be an impact on jobs in the private sector. The Pathways for Academic Career and Employment (PACE) Program is targeted to match underemployed and unemployed workers with in-demand occupations in Iowa. PACE will assist private businesses and industry by providing skilled workers for a variety of positions. PACE will allow low-skilled/low-income unemployed and underemployed adult and dislocated workers to rapidly and efficiently acquire and demonstrate competency in a specified technical field. These occupations will be determined regionally and will include, but not be limited to: information technology, health care, advanced manufacturing and transportation. Certificate programs are aligned with credit certificates, diplomas and degrees. PACE does not replace existing training but will target a currently underserved population in the state.

These rules are intended to implement 2011 Iowa Code Supplement chapters 260H and 260I. These rules shall become effective May 23, 2012.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Pursuant to recommendation of the Administrative Rules Review Committee published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin, September 10, 1986, the text of these rules [Ch 25] is being omitted. These rules are identical to those published under Notice as **ARC 0020C**, IAB 2/22/12.

[Filed 3/30/12, effective 5/23/12]

[Published 4/18/12]

[For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 4/18/12.]